

7th Grade Expository Essay Examples

Example 1: Measles

Measles is in the news again for a recent outbreak. In the U.S. about 300 cases have been reported as of late. However, measles is an old virus. The first emergence of measles was around 500 AD. Therefore, it has been around since early history, and continues to affect people, despite vaccinations. The virus produces a highly contagious disease, and that is one of the reasons it has lasted so long in the lives of humans. This essay will describe the signs and symptoms, causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of this highly infectious virus.

Commonly, children are infected with the virus. Though it is not usually fatal for adults, it can be for children. The signs and symptoms of measles last around 10-14 days subsequent to being exposed to the virus. The most common symptoms are: fever, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, inflamed eyes, “tiny white spots with bluish-white centers on a red background found inside the mouth on the inner lining of the cheek — also called Koplik’s spots” (“Measles”), and a skin rash with flat blotches. The fever itself lasts for about four days to one week.

In terms of the causes of measles, it is simple. According to Children’s Hospital, “Measles is caused by morbillivirus, which is mostly seen in the winter and spring. It’s spread from one child to another through direct contact with discharge from the nose and throat. Sometimes, it is spread through airborne droplets (from a cough or sneeze) from an infected child” (“Measles (Rubeola) Symptoms & Causes | Boston Children’s Hospital”). The measles virus is a single-stranded, negative-sense, enveloped RNA virus. It can live up to two hours in airspace or surfaces (“Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases”).

The good thing about measles is that it can be diagnosed rather easily. It has characteristic features that distinguish it from other diseases caused by viruses. Stated by Mayo Clinic, “Your doctor can usually diagnose measles based on the disease’s characteristic rash as well as a small, bluish-white spot on a bright red background — Koplik’s spot — on the inside lining of the cheek. However, many doctors have never seen measles, and the rash can be confused with a number of other illnesses. If necessary, a blood test can confirm whether the rash is truly measles” (“Measles”). However, as told above, measles is more rare than other diseases, so it is important to take the appropriate tests to determine the validity of your doctor’s claims.

The bad news is that receiving the measles virus is hard to avoid due to its highly infectious and contagious nature. There is not much in the way of recommendations. According to Children’s Hospital, “Since the use of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine, the number of children infected with measles has dropped by 99 percent. About 5 percent of measles are due to vaccine failure. The vaccine is usually given when your child is 12 to 15 months old, and then again when he is between 4 and 6 years old” (“Measles (Rubeola) Symptoms & Causes | Boston Children’s Hospital”). So, getting vaccinated is our best bet at fighting off the virus and becoming immune to it.

If you happen to get infected with measles, there are various ways to treat it. However, there is no medicine that directly treats measles. With that said, these are the various treatments: “acetaminophen to relieve fever and muscle aches, rest to help boost your immune system, plenty of fluids (six to eight glasses of water a day), humidifier to ease a cough and sore throat, [and] vitamin A supplements” (“Measles: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatments”). It is best to combine all these treatments for the best effect.

Measles is an ancient virus that has adapted and mutated throughout history. Currently, it is making a comeback. However, getting vaccinated is the surest way of avoiding getting infected by this contagious virus. As soon as you notice any signs or symptoms of measles—fever, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, inflamed eyes, Koplik’s spots, and a skin rash with flat blotches—then head to your doctor for a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment.

Works Cited

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Example 2: YouTube

YouTube was and still is still a mass craze. It is a video-sharing website that features home-made videos from creators, and also professionally made content from companies, experts, forums, and many other participants. You can like and comment on videos, add videos to your favorites, make playlists, subscribe to channels, report bad content, and do many other actions to videos you watch. It is a highly interactive and lucrative platform for many users. YouTube crosses generations, as everyone from small children to senior citizens enjoy utilizing the application’s features. However, how much do we know about its beginnings and development? This essay will discuss the foundations of this popular platform, and how it grew into one of the leading websites on the internet.

Three employees of PayPal—Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim—started coming up with ideas for a site that would allow users to easily access videos in early 2005. They had several concepts floating around in their talks, such as, “a dating website called “Tune In, Hook Up”,

which allowed users to post videos of themselves for others to view and decide whether or not to “hook up” with them. Sadly, no one was willing to make use of the service and the concept failed. Fortunately, the platform’s video uploading and posting technology was sound, and when the group had a discussion about how hard it was to find a video online of Janet Jackson’s infamous “wardrobe malfunction”, during the 2004 Superbowl Halftime show, a concept began to form in their collective hormone-soaked brains” (“The History of YouTube”). The idea of a public video-sharing website sprung from this incident—which would be the first of its kind on the internet.

The domain www.youtube.com was activated on February 14th of 2005. After developing the site over the next few months, the team approached investors to fund their project. Sequoia Capital made an \$11.5 million investment and Artis Capital management gave \$8 as an investment as well. Their first headquarters was above a pizzeria and Japanese restaurant in San Mateo, California (“Ready for Its Close-Up”).

In April of 2005, the first YouTube video was posted. According to Phrasee, “It was an 18 second clip of YouTube founder Jawed Karim standing in front of elephants at the zoo; it was appropriately entitled “Me at the zoo” (“The History of YouTube”). This video can still be viewed on the site. From this first video and more testing, the beta version of the website was released to the public in May of 2005. Since its release, several major companies took interest in the platform’s advertising potential. Nike was one of the first to see its capabilities. According to Business Insider, “In September 2005, YouTube got its first one million-hit video. The video was a Nike ad that went viral. It was a clip of Brazilian soccer player Ronaldinho receiving his pair of Golden Boots” (Dickey, Megan Rose). This advertisement and several more hit videos caught the attention of the public and companies alike.

With this success, YouTube officially launched out of beta in December of 2005. At the time of the official launch, the website was already receiving eight million views a day. But this is a small number in terms of growth. YouTube grew at a rapid rate, that by June of 2006, it stated that 65,000 new videos were being made a day, and that they were receiving over 100 million views daily. With more and more rapid growth, on October 9th of 2006, Google announced that it had acquired YouTube for 1.65 billion in Google stock. Just a little over a year of YouTube becoming an activated domain, it had become so popular and famous that the technology giant Google saw its great potential and decided the time was ripe to acquire it. In Google’s hands, YouTube introduced advertisements, live recording, payment for creators, and much more.

The beginnings of YouTube started from an idea from three employees of PayPal of sharing videos across the internet without a problem. Before YouTube, individual videos were posted on websites, but having a single website dedicated to archiving and collecting videos for the public to see at their own volition was a fresh idea. Their concept was such a hit that in only six months of its existence, big companies were posting advertisements there and millions of views a day were being counted. And, only a little after one year, Google set its sights on acquiring the website to develop it even further. Now, it is the second-most popular website on the internet.

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